

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 /080 W

-----037610 021046Z /12

R 020700Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6337

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0759

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PORG, RW, CG, BY

SUBJECT: STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN RWANDA AND BURUNDI

REF: BUJUMBURA 723

1. RWANDAN AMBASSADOR KAMALI VISITED ME JUNE 30 TO ASK WHETHER RWANDA HAD COME UP IN MY JUNE 23 CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT BAGAZA. IN RESPONSE, I GAVE KAMALI A BRIEFING ALONG LINES OF REFTEL.

2. KAMALI SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED THAT I HAD RAISED THESE ISSUES AND PRESSED BAGAZA TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO RELATIONS WITH RWANDA. HE RECALLED THAT HABYARIMANA AND BAGAZA HAD HAD A GOOD INITIAL MEETING ON ZANZIBAR AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY, BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO FOLLOW-UP, AND NOW THERE WAS VERY LITTLE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THEM. HE MENTIONED, AS AN EXAMPLE, THAT HE HAD SPOKEN ON MARCH 10 OR 12 TO FINANCE MINISTER SHIRAMANGA TO PROPOSE THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES GET TOGETHER TO CONCERT ON A PURCHASE PRICE FOR COFFEE. HOWEVER, HE HAD NEVER RECEIVED ANY REACTION FROM THE BURUNDIAN SIDE, AND NOW BURUNDI HAD PAID A
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STIFF PRICE FOR ITS FAILURE TO TAKE JOINT ACTION.

3. I ASKED WHETHER MATTERS COULD NOT RPT NOT BE SET BACK ON A FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE TRACK AGAIN DURING THE PLANNED AUGUST MEETING OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS. KAMALI REPLIED THAT HE HOPED SO; CERTAINLY RWANDA WOULD DO ITS PART. HE ADDED THAT THE VISIT HAD BEEN TENTATIVELY FIXED FOR AUGUST 20, BUT THIS MIGHT BE CHANGED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT RWANDA WAS TRYING TO DRUM UP FIRST A SUMMIT MEETING OF THE TRIPARTITE "ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT LAKES" IN BUJUMBURA, BUT THE BURUNDIANS, WHO CURRENTLY HELD THE CHAIRMANSHIP, SEEMED RELUCTANT. KAMALI HAS REQUESTED A MEETING WITH BAGAZA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO TALK OVER SOME OF THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO STATES, INCLUDING THE FAILURE TO MEET, SINCE THE BURUNDI COUP D'ETAT LAST NOVEMBER ONE, OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION. THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

MARK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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